

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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BRIT



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British Baseball Federation

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

Issue 35

85p

April 1996

BASEBALL ON TV IN GREAT BRITAIN



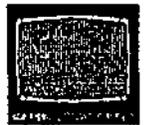
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL INTERNATIONAL

It has been a pleasure, in my first eight months working for MLBI to meet and discuss the

development of baseball in the UK with so many in the federation. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future and watching you win the B Pool Championships in August. MLBI is fully committed to developing the game in the UK, as our January Clinics and Envoy program show.

I am happy to announce that MLBI is close

to coming to terms with a number of UK television stations to show baseball programming in 1996. We fully expect to be on both terrestrial and cable stations. MLBI and the BBF will look for each of the members to support this broadcast by watching the programming and encouraging the broadcasters to increase their coverage.



Final programming schedules will be sent to the BBF Head Office and distributed to club managers. Individual members should seek out this information from those managers.

Put this in your diary: MLBI is organising for the second year running, during 4th - 7th of July, The Baseball Festival. This interactive baseball extravaganza will be held in Covent Garden and will provide everyone with their opportunity to sample baseball. I hope each of your will take the opportunity to visit Fan Fest and enjoy a little piece of the American ballpark in London.

Good Luck with the season

Clive Russell
Director of European Operations
Major League Baseball International



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★ **0891 884533** ★

★ **Calls charged at 37p per minute off-peak,** ★

★ **49p per minute peak time** ★

ENQUIRIES

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Scorers Commissioner: Scotland: Liz Graham

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INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC YOUTH CAMP

John Boyd of Windsor has been selected to represent the BBF at a British selection weekend at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. Candidates for the camp came from every Olympic sport, and John has made the final 40. From the selection weekend, 10 will go forward to represent Great Britain at the International Olympic Youth Camp in Atlanta in July.

All at the BBF wish John the best of luck, and hope that his efforts are justly rewarded. We feel John is deserving of a place in Atlanta, and will represent his sport and his country very well.



APPOINTMENTS

The BBF Board are delighted to announce the appointment of the following positions:

Great Britain Junior Squad Coach
Ian Smyth

National Umpiring Coordinator and
Southern Conference Umpires Commissioner
Ted Gerard-Thesingh

Southern Conference Scorers Commissioner
Brian Holland

Northern Conference Scorers Commissioner
Clive Maude

Scottish Conference Scorers Commissioner
Liz Graham

We're sure you will join the Board in wishing them all every success in their new roles.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Clive and Selena Russell on
the birth of their daughter
Lauren Grace on Tuesday 5
March 1996, weighing 7lbs
9oz.



BBF MARKETPLACE

The following items are available from the BBF to help develop your club.

Diamond Development - contains details of all bodies to whom you can apply for funding.

Diamond Construction - every possible dimension you could require for building and marking out your diamond.

Introduction to the Game - for beginners to baseball, it briefly explains the rules and what equipment is required.

History of the Game - a brief history of baseball in the UK, good for any youngsters doing a school project on baseball.

How to set up a Baseball Team - How do you go about starting your own team - ideas for fund-raising, recruiting players, details of fees, where the BBF spend the money etc.

Teeball - an instructional leaflet on the game of tee-ball. Ideal for passing on to your local school to encourage them to play the game.

Baseball Information Sheet - again another leaflet which is ideal for people new to the game, it explains what the BBF is and what we can provide.

Parent Information - a leaflet designed for you to hand out to your junior players parents. It explains baseball to them and gives details of how they should become involved in your club.

Baseball Qualifications - a booklet

which explains the aims and objectives of the coaching association and gives you details on how to attain level A, AA and AAA qualifications.

The Great Game of Baseball - an A2 poster explaining the game and its history. Ideal for displaying in your local library, sports centre and schools to encourage people to play.

The Sporting News Official Baseball Rules - 1995 Edition - SPECIAL PRICE - only £1 per copy - can your team afford to be without them.

BBF Scratch Cards - what easier way can there be for your team to raise funds. Available at a special price of 15p a card.

BBF Baseball Camp Handbook - This 45 page book is a must for anyone organising a baseball camp this summer. It full of ideas for schedules, lesson plans, posters, advertising, competitions etc to make your camp a success plus examples of certificates and awards that can be made at the end of the camp. It's available at a cost of £3.50 per book.

The Sporting News Chronicles of Baseball - the story of America's National Pastime from 1900 to the present day. An A4 hardback book containing 700 historic photographs and 351 pages of great baseball events - £15 including postage and packing

Inflatable Baseball Bats - You've seen Atlanta Braves chop, now here's your chance to start a new trend and do the BBF Bash! These inflatables blow up to the same

length as a normal baseball bat - 32" and are approximately twice as thick. The barrel of the bats is coloured red, white and blue in a union jack design. A must for supporting the GB squad in the European championships, and they're only £1 each

BBF Caps - Let people know that you belong to the British Baseball Federation. These caps are of an exceptional quality, embroidered with the BBF logo. They are available in either white with a blue peak or red with a royal blue peak. At a cost of £10 can you afford to be without one this summer?

BBF Polo Shirts - Again an excellent way to promote the British Baseball Federation. These shirts are available in red, royal blue, white, grey or white with a blue collar. We have XL sizes in stock but S, M, or L may be ordered at an excellent price of £12 each.

Scoremaster Scorebooks - Let's make the statisticians lives easier and all use the same scorebook - the official scorebook of the BBF - available at a cost of £4.00.

BBF Line-up Pads - feel ashamed when you present the umpire with your line up on a scrap of paper you found in the bottom of your bag? Get yourself a line-up pad. Each pad contains twenty quadruple sets which will last you the season. At £4.25 a pad can you afford to be without?

BBF Pin Badges - Identifies you with the BBF - excellent as end of season gifts for players - these iron based three colour badges are a snip at 75p each.

If you require more information on any of the above please contact:
British Baseball Federation, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ
Tel: 01482 643551 Fax: 01482 640224

KISS OF DEATH.....



Quick everyone, dive for cover, it's that Macadam fella! Please don't tip my team for the title, we want to win the league. Oh no!.....

Yes, once again I make my yearly predictions as to who will win what and the questions is can I improve on last years 40% record. Here goes....

Premier Division North

This will be a three horse race between Mets, Bandits and Pirates, and despite their one-two combination of Dutton and Brownlie I feel the Bandits will just lose out to the Pirates with the Mets a close third.

Premier Division South

No Cody Cain! How will the Warriors fare? Notoriously slow starters but they will be there or

thereabouts at the end. This will be a very tight division but I can see Enfield and Cambridge doing well with the Monarchs causing an upset in their first Premier season and taking the title.

Northern Conference East

This one is wide open with Nottingham, Newark and Darlington all capable. However I think the Steelers will just take it.

Northern Conference West

Despite a year off, I think the Tigers will be too strong for everyone and despite a strong challenge from Stretford Liverpool will take first place.

Scottish Conference

Anyone but Edinburgh - Alyth Adders; my tee-ball team; but please not Edinburgh. I couldn't cope with Mr Modesty Graham boasting for 12 months! I'm going to pick the Dodgers to win just to annoy Brian.

Southern Conference Division One

RAF Molesworth and Arun will fight this one out with both being pushed by Boumemouth. But Arun will have a good year and take the title.

Southern Conference Division Two

Gillingham Dodgers should prove themselves and triumph as they narrowly missed out last year.

Southern Conference Division Three

The Flames and the Mariners will be looking to escape the third division and this will be the season.

Well that's it. I suppose I just sit back and wait for the phone calls of complaint now. Never mind - Good Luck!

Kev Macadam

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BBF / PONY YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

RULES INTERPRETATIONS

STEALING

There has been some confusion over the new limited stealing rules that have been introduced for the 1996 season. This article will attempt to remove any confusion, by explaining the philosophy behind the rule and highlighting game situations.

The rules currently state that a base runner can only steal second base. This was introduced for several reasons:

- ◆ To prevent walk, steal, steal, passed ball, run scored.
- ◆ To remove some pressure off the pitchers and catchers.
- ◆ While limiting the total running game, it still allows players to take leads (at all bases), and to steal.
- ◆ This will allow pitchers to learn to pitch from the stretch position, and to pick runners off.
- ◆ Runners taking leads will enable infielders to work on pick off moves.
- ◆ This allows catchers to throw runners out and to pick runners off.
- ◆ It essentially dictates that runs are scored by offense, rather than conceded by the defense.

The running abilities of our layers is currently far more advanced than the standards of their baseball skills. Therefore stealing in most instances will be too easy.

GAME SITUATIONS

Runner on First Base

In this instance, the game is live as in regulation baseball.

Runner on Second Base

The runner can only advance on a batted ball in fair territory (tagging up applies), or a passed ball / wild pitch

(at their own risk). The runner may take a lead, and can be picked off. The runner cannot advance on any attempted pick off. They must return to the base they were occupying. If there is an overthrow on an attempted pick off, the runner still cannot advance. This prevents runners from taking too big a lead attempting to get into a rundown, or from attempting to draw a bad throw.

Runner on Third Base

As above

Runners on First and Second Base

As above. If the trail runner (runner on first) is picked off, they cannot advance to the next base, as it is already occupied and that runner cannot advance. Therefore the runner at first must return to first base and avoid being tagged out.

Bases Loaded

As above.

Runners on First and Third

The runner on first can steal as in regulation baseball. However, the runner on third can only advance on a batted ball in fair territory, or a passed ball / wild pitch. The runner on third base cannot steal home on a throw down to second base.

Runners on Second and Third

The runners can only advance on a batted ball in fair territory or a passed ball / wild pitch.

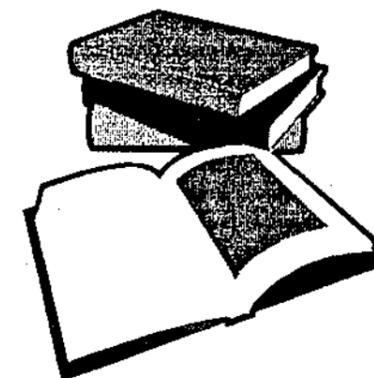
CONCLUSION

Throughout the game the ball will be live as in regulation baseball. However, the advantage, if any, will be with the defense, as they can pick runners off, but the runners cannot steal, (other than second base). The rules cater for every fundamental aspect of baseball, while suiting the needs and abilities of our junior players.

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GB JUNIORS

Juniors between the ages of 16 and 18 are invited to a workout / tryout for places on the GB Junior National Baseball Team.

This will be held on Saturday 6 April 1996 at the Hemel Red Sox Field, Grovehill Playing Fields, Grovehill, Hemel Hempstead.

The session will begin promptly at 10.00am and continue until 2.30pm. Participants should bring their kit, lunch and drinks.

If anyone would like further information on this session please contact Ralph Rago on 0113 266 9530.

PONY BASEBALL PATCHES

This season every registered junior player will receive free of charge a PONY Baseball shoulder patch. These superbly embroidered patches should be sewn on to the left shoulder of the uniform shirt. They will then transform most uniforms, making them look more professional.

Patches will be sent to team contacts along with their 1996 player rosters

A SAD LOSS TO BASEBALL

It is with sadness that we have to report the tragic death of John Thompson age 13, a player with Hull Mets Baseball Club.

"He was a brilliant lad, always laughing and smiling and was very popular with the other kids" commented coach Doreen Megson. He will be sadly missed by baseballers in the Hull area.

jPC SPORTS

We offer a fast, efficient service to teams or individuals seeking quality kit and good prices on a mail order basis.

We carry in stock Baseballs (including the Kenko Air safety ball), personal Equipment Bags, Gloves, Batters Gloves and Bases (but so far no Bats). We still have a few top quality First Base Mitts to clear at £35 each plus special prices on protective equipment.

Please write in or call for an equipment price list. We are a mail order warehouse, not a shop, so if you plan a visit please call us first.

JPC Sports
8 Netherhampton Business Centre
Netherhampton, Salisbury, Wilts
Tel: 01722 744869
Fax: 01722 743232

TEEBALL FIXTURES

The 1996 PONY Youth Baseball League fixtures refer only to the 12-16 age group. There are no formalised fixtures for Teeballers this season. However, many clubs do have Teeball teams, and are wanting to play.



In many areas, clubs who have Teeball teams are playing a double header, ie taking two teams, a Teeball team and a Baseball team to scheduled fixtures. If you have a Teeball team please confirm that your scheduled opponents also have a team. If they do, play a double header, teeball and baseball.

BBF / PONY ADOPT A CLUB PROGRAMME

The first club in the country to become involved in this programme are Hessele Apaches. They have been paired up with Brooklyn, New York, and are currently planning to host a team from Brooklyn in sunny Hessele next summer, with a planned visit to New York in 1998.

Any other clubs who are interested in this programme should contact Ian Smyth for details.

Over the past few weeks many of you have requested details of places to stay for the duration of the European Championships. Ceri Morgan of Dragon Tours has negotiated an extremely good deal with Hull University in their Halls of Residence. At £28 per night including meals, you won't find anywhere else much cheaper. If you would like to book, please complete and return the booking form below with your cheque, direct to Dragon Tours.

If you are going to be in Hull for the week, why not join the organising committee. We're sure there will be some way in which you can assist, and you will still be able to watch the games. Let us know if you are available.

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BOOKING FORM

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FOR: European Baseball Championships - Hull UK DATES: Saturday 3 August to Sunday 11 August 1996

ACCOMMODATION PACKAGE: Single room with meals = £28 per person per night

SPECIAL REQUESTS: _____

A deposit per person is required on booking. For bookings made within 12 weeks of departure, full payment is required. Deposit = £25 per person with booking form. Balance by 3 May 1996. All prices include VAT at 17.5%.

Deposits @ £25.00 = £ _____

ALL PAYMENTS made payable to Dragon Tours (UK) Ltd Travel Trust Account
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I accept the conditions of booking on behalf of all persons applicable to this booking form.

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EUROPEAN Championships

1996



If you only catch one thing this year
make sure it's the European Championships

3rd - 11th August 1996 Hull

For more information phone
The British Baseball Federation 01482 643551





“OK” LET’S GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINTS



FBI are out in front when it comes to sorting you out with the kit you need at a price you can afford. Add this to the new points system which many teams are switching on to and you have a winning combination.

FBI would like to say a big Baseball Thank You to

These Guys have really got the Point



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Can we be of service to you soon?

And for all you other teams out there that have not had the FBI experience the season is not over for you yet. FBI are getting ready to have a mad, bad, end of season sale. All those established customers will get the details first, so if you are not on the hit list what are you waiting for.

Give us a call 0171 837 5100

First Base International, 113-117 Farringdon Road, London, EC1R 3DQ

BBF / FBI BRITISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP 1996

In 1996 the BBF supported by FBI will run a British Schools Championship. This competition is open to all schools that are currently involved in any BBF Schools programme. Teams can be selected from one school, or can be an all star team, selected from several schools in one area. Only children in school years 7, 8 and 9 are eligible to compete.

State one of this competition will be regional, with a Northern Zone and a Southern Zone tournament. Details are:

**Northern Zone
Saturday 22 June at Halifax**

**Southern Zone
Saturday 8 June at Bracknell**

The two respective zone winners will meet to play in the National Championship Final, which will be played prior to the Great Britain National Team fixture.

**National Final -
Saturday 13 July at Birmingham**

Places in each Zone Tournament are limited to 8, and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please complete and return the entry form to obtain a place. There is no entry fee for this competition.

Please remember this competition is aimed at schools and increasing schools participation. We do not want club teams entering as all star teams, as they will be too strong for most school teams.

Trophies will be awarded to zone winners, and to National Finalists. Every child who plays will receive a certificate.

Closing date for entries is 17 May 1996

Competition rules and tournament formats will be sent to participating teams after the closing date.

Entries are limited to eight per Zone, and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Confirmation will be sent to all participating teams.

For further details, contact Ian Smyth on 0113 261 2571.

BBF / FBI BRITISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP 1996

SCHOOL / AREA: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

TELEPHONE & FAX: _____

Please circle the Zone Tournament you wish to enter

NORTH ZONE 22 June at Halifax

SOUTH ZONE 8 June at Bracknell

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

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This season is your turn to thrill to your Baseball team. Every Friday you will get the best available game of your favourite team. Complete and uncut. All the action. All the analysis. All the stories. Plus a half hour of highlights from around the leagues after each game. What does all this cost?

Just £9.90 per tape. Including p&p. So try one. Or two. Or take advantage of this super offer: Order six weeks of your favourite team, and we'll add the seventh week tape for free. That's right. You thrill to the best games played by your favourite team for about two months for just £59.40. Here is how to order.

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Yes. Send me _____ (how many?) weeks of Baseball. Each video contains a complete game featuring the team of my choice, plus a highlight show covering the action from around the leagues. Please send me the videos of

- ... my favourite team _____
- ... the best game of each week
- I order at least six videos and get one additional week FREE
- For each video I pay just £9.90 (incl p&p). I prefer to pay
- ... by credit card (Access, Visa, American Express)
- Card No: _____ Exp: _____
- ... by enclosed cheque

Name: _____

Address: _____

PRESS RELEASE

by Pontel GmbH, Zurich, Switzerland

Pontel, the worldwide distributor of Baseball, Basketball, and Football games on video cassettes, is proud to announce a three-year extension of its licence to distribute the games of Major League Baseball. Pontel is now exclusively licensed until 1999, which will be the 20th year of the Pontel partnership with Major League Baseball.

Pontel has thus become the oldest of all media relationships for Major League Baseball. No broadcaster in the USA or abroad, has enjoyed a continuous relationship dating back 20 years.

Throughout these 20 years, Pontel customers have experienced continuous improvements in Pontel's service. Mr Saarbach, Pontel's founder and Managing Director, recalls that in the early 1980's, Baseball fans outside the United States were thrilled to get any game, of any age, with any outcome. "Today's fans are much more knowledgeable, much more sophisticated, and, as you might expect, much more demanding," explains Mr Saarbach. "Today's Pontel customer wants to see his favourite team, in an exciting match, within a few days after its played in the United States, with complete-game coverage, including the commercials between innings."

That is what Pontel supplies. Every week, Pontel covers all the teams of Major League Baseball, and distributes the best available games of each team to fans around the world. If the Yankees play Boston in a weekend series, Pontel would record all three games. If Friday's game ends 8-0, it'll never get produced by Pontel. Saturday's 5-4 Yankee win would go to Yankee fans, while the 3-0 Roger Clemens shutout from Sunday will go to all Boston fans. All games are in customers' hands by the following Friday, recorded on four-hour videos. Each video ends with a high-light show covering all the action in Baseball

during the prior week.

How does Pontel know which games are preferred by each team's fans? Mr Saarbach insists that all Pontel employees are baseball fans themselves. "We can teach everything an employee needs to know, except the passion for baseball. If you don't love baseball, you can't understand real baseball fans, and you can't satisfy their baseball hunger," explains Mr Saarbach. How well does Pontel satisfy the world's Baseball hunger? When Pontel was founded, there were seven companies like it already in existence. Today there is only Pontel.

"We spend 90% of our management time improving our product and our service. Only 10% is spent on finances. We believe that if the customer is satisfied, the finances will work themselves out," says Mr Saarbach. In fact, Mr Saarbach believes that Pontel videos are the world's best value in sports videos. "It's just impossible for anyone but Pontel to offer four hours of baseball excitement, recorded on name-brand video tape, made to fit your personal wishes, and speed-delivered to your door with first class post, for just £9.90!", claims Mr Saarbach.

What improvements are in line for the 1996 season? "Pontel will have about 1,200 baseball games to choose from this year. That translates into more exciting games for our customers to watch week after week.

And on the technical side, Pontel will receive digital quality signals for the first time this summer. This will mean a visible improvement in the picture quality enjoyed by our customers. By next year, Pontel will master-record each game in its digital state, and ultimately provide its customers with digital recordings, when digital video is available on tape and CD.

THE ART OF BASEBALL

A Postcard Book™

Celebrating the Great American Pastime in Thirty Classic Images

Baseball, the great American pastime, now has a large following in the UK and fans over here are as interested in the game's memorabilia, as followers in the States.

The Art of Baseball contains thirty postcards to mail and share. Each postcard depicts a rare collectable, including "The Mookie Ball", hit by Mookie Wilson at the 1986 World Series, making World Champions of the New York Mets; the 1986 Cleveland Indians Silver Season Pass; Ty Cobb's "Kings of Clubs" Sheet Music; a signed cheque from Shoeless Joe - who couldn't read or write; Buck Weaver's bat collection and Mickey Mantle's overcoat.

Each card also contains a brief history of the item concerned plus details of the price reached at auction.

If you would like a copy of this book please contact Running Press, 30 Harcourt Street, London, W1H 2AA. It's available at a cost of £5.99. P&P is free.

PRO-ACTIVE LIABILITY DEFENSE

The climate in all areas of today's society is to try and beat the system. Whether it's a parking ticket, a library fine or a nuisance lawsuit, Joe Q Public wants his just due.

In the athletic arena, whether it be college, high school or recreation parents today are claiming negligence and filing suit in greater numbers than every before. The days of a bad hop, an uneven playing surface or an old piece of playground equipment are over. If a lawyer feels there's a quick dollar to be captured he's encouraging the plaintiff to file papers and claim negligence.

Anyone can be suited at anytime, by anyone, over anything, but winning a decision is a different scenario. Let's create a strong case of pro-active defense mechanisms to protect ourselves and our organisations against the petty and frivolous lawsuits.

Pro-active means to solve injury lawsuits.

Instruct your staff and / or team that we must use good common sense in every action which takes place under your realm or responsibility. Error on the side of safety!

- Avoid hitting in batting cage alone
- Avoid being in the weight room alone
- Avoid long distance runs alone

Instruct your staff and / or team in the primary steps in case of a serious or catastrophic accident.

- Do not move the injured person unless additional life threatening danger persists. Then and only then move the person only far enough to stay away from additional danger.
- Immediately assume extreme injury. Call 999 on your cellular phone. With your CPR training and first aid background keep the airway open and the individual breathing until second aid appears.
- Place volunteers in a proper alignment to aid and direct the rescue vehicle immediately to the sight of the injured victim. Your emergency entrance must be unlocked, void of obstruction in its path and able to reach the victim while on the playing surface.



- To enhance emergency room access, make sure all medical and insurance forms are up to date and carried with the ambulance. The parents must be contacted and instructed on the action taken for their child.
- Have individuals who witnessed the accident fill out a visual report so there's an unbiased reporting as to what happened. This key point is one of the more important defense steps that a department or team has.
- Take pictures of the accident scene. Whether the picture is favourable or unfavourable, this is prudent and valuable in proving your case.
- Make every attempt to visit and console the injured person. This is the time when "bedside manner" plays an important part in the family's feeling surrounding the accident and / or long term problems.
- Review your accident procedures and correct the weaknesses.

By having a first aid certificate, a team trainer available, a cellular phone on site, an emergency procedure in place and follow-up reporting documented, doesn't necessarily mean you're out of the lawsuit woods. But you have shown to the court that serious problems have been discussed and thought out and that your policies and procedures were in place.

You or your department / school may still get suited and even lose when you have done everything correctly. The most important feature of this whole exercise is that maybe you might have just saved a life or saved a life-threatening situation because you were ahead of the liability wave.

Although you lost in court, you won on the field. Congratulations.

About the Author: Floyd Perry is the author of The Pictorial Guide to Quality Groundskeeping and a second book scheduled for January 1996 release The Pictorial Guide to Quality Groundskeeping II.

A HOT DOG

A hot dog is a player who thinks training, rules and team dress and appearance apply to other players, not to him.

A hot dog is a player who shows physical distress when the umpire makes a mistake or a fellow player makes a mistake.

A hot dog is a player who thinks the umpire is personally against him.

A hot dog is a player who does not respect his opponents ability, but considers him just lucky.

A hot dog is a player who listens to the coach but only gives a half hearted try at what he recommended.

A hot dog is a player who is jealous of his team mates success.

A hot dog is a player who uses ailments and injuries to explain away poor play.

A hot dog is a player who thinks he is able to solve all his teammates' playing problems.

A hot dog is a player who criticises the coaches and the other players.

A hot dog is a player more concerned with how he looks, not how he plays.

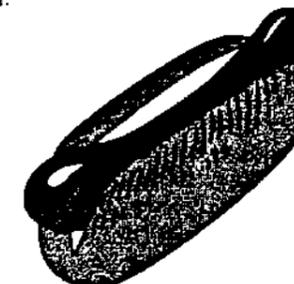
A hot dog is a player who thinks it is really cool not to hustle, especially in practice.

A hot dog is a player who practices his strong points but not his weaknesses. Practicing his weaknesses is an admission that he has any.

A hot dog is a player whose main reason for being on the team is because it makes him a big man, and a hit with the women.

A hot dog really isn't a player.

A hot dog is a hotdog.



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Full grain leather, 3 leather layers, resistant and supple. Closed pocket.

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Web pocket, fast back
Size: 12,5
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- If you buy 5: £ 42
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Children, closed pocket
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Size: 31
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Web pocket and fast back
Size: 11
Ref. 020002 - Price: £ 32
- If you buy 5: £ 28
- If you buy 10: £ 24
- SLO.3 -
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Size: 12
Ref. 020003 - Price: £ 33
- If you buy 5: £ 30
- If you buy 10: £ 25

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- If you buy 10: £ 5
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Please ensure I receive a copy of the 1996 British Baseball Federation Handbook. I enclose my cheque for £4 (cheques made payable to the British Baseball Federation).

Name: _____

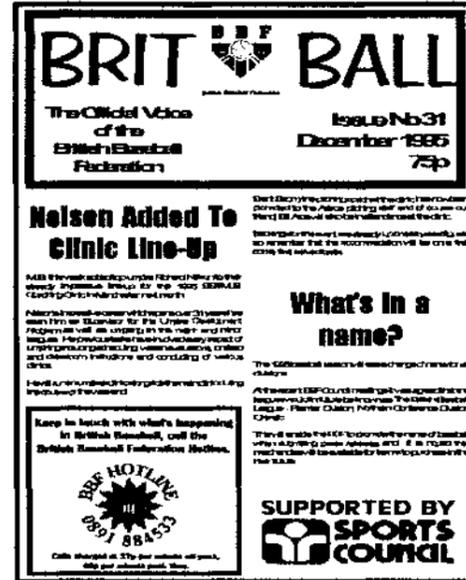
Address: _____

Postcode: _____

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The Official Voice of the
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Yesteryears Baseball is a new feature, which will provide an opportunity for our players of the past to recount their playing days. The information will also prove valuable historical information on our sport.

In 1952 Nottingham All-Stars played Birmingham All-Stars at Fort Dunlop in Birmingham.

Pitching for Birmingham was a guy by the name of Vic Lambric (or Lambert), an American who had married over here after the war and had decided to stay on here with his wife in Birmingham. It was said by some that he was good enough for the pro leagues in the states.

To tell the truth Benny had come up against this pitcher on a number of occasions and had been struck out every time, but this time he was determined to hit back.

So that night he went to sleep with happy thoughts. Game the following day, Sunday, they all piled in to the bus and on the journey there talk turned to the Birmingham pitcher and how to beat him. Some said bunting him would do the trick, others thought standing close up to the plate and so on. But Benny had his own ideas - that a clear head and sharp



eyes were the answer.

On arriving at the ground they all made straight for the changing rooms, put on their uniforms and went out onto the diamond, but not Benny, he hung back and took two small bottles from his bag and proceeded to open them. One contained eye drops, the other smelling salts. The eye drops he fired two good squirts into his eyes, letting the liquid run down his cheeks onto his uniform. Then he took a good sniff of the smelling salts which made his head jerk back suddenly at the same time bringing more tears from his eyes. Now he was ready to do battle.

As the visiting team they batted first and Benny's turn to bat hopefully would not be long as he was fourth up to bat. The first batter was hit by the ball and given first base, the second tried bunting but popped it into the air and was caught by the catcher, the third batter was struck out.

Now it was Benny's turn - his big moment had arrived. Revenge is sweet he thought? So walking nonchalantly towards home plate and the batters box he gave the pitcher a big smile! Stepping into the left hand batters box he made a few gesture swings with his bat then took up his batting stance. He saw the pitcher go into his wind up and saw the ball about to leave his hand, and then nothing but a black curtain descending. Yes, you've guessed it the ball hit Benny's head and not his bat.

So now you know why Benny never ranked high as a batter. Also remember in those days there were no such things as batting helmets!

Benny Benson

So come on all you Old Timers, let's hear some on your memories. Handwritten notes will suffice for us to produce a story.

YESTERYEARS BASEBALL

Dear Brit-Ball

Why do we play baseball? Ask yourself that, particularly the teams from the Scottish Conference. Is it to play a game we enjoy watching on the box? Yes, no? Is it for the exercise maybe? No, I don't think so. To play organised baseball in this country means you have *that* bug - you can't help liking the game. So assuming this is true, you want to play in a team against other like minded teams in your general area.

Correct so far? Right, then you will want to play in a game where the umpire knows his / her job and makes calls fairly and properly. You may think your the best outfielder. A competent scorer will record the game properly, thus enabling you to find this out by comparing your stats with your fellow team members and keeping a record of them. You want to improve your standard of the game as does every other player in the team. The rookies want to learn the game's ins and outs from an experienced player / coach.

So, what do you do? You or your team organisers attend the regional AGM early in the new year. It is agreed that clinics be held in Edinburgh and all teams promise to send a contingent to each. The Scottish Commissioner is asked to set them up. He discovered through investigation and continuous discussion with the Scotland Senior Team Manager, who is based in Edinburgh, that the capital was not suitable because of various reasons. The two main ones were that the response was poor to the Commissioner's request for numbers for each clinic. The hall which was given free of charge was several miles away from the ground which would incur travel costs. So, he found a location that would be able to hold all the clinics in the one weekend and get the facilities for free - Alyth. He haggled favourable bed and breakfast charges so everyone had the option to stay the Saturday night, thus reducing travel costs over the 2 day event. Since all the clinics were being held together, he assumed that coaches, umpires and scorers would be travelling together thus keeping their costs to a

minimum. He obtained the free services (through BBF) of a superb set of clinicians whom he knew would be invaluable in teaching the attendees.

So, what happens? You attend a clinic to improve your coaching skills, with Grade A or AA on offer. No. The mandatory scorer and umpire from each team attend their respective clinics. No. Instead, you and the others in your team give excuses like:- it's too far to travel; nobody's interested; it's too expensive; or you simply do not return the Commissioner's many calls or say you have to attend something else on the days (and the commissioner later finds out that it was optional). So he reluctantly cancels the whole event. His time and effort is in vain and money that could have been spent in other much more valuable areas, has gone down the drain.

So, what's the result? The Scottish Commissioner advises the BBF not to try to hold any more clinics here in the near future. If you wish to attend one next time, he advises that you travel south of the border to the nearest one in England, because that will be the nearest available. **And what about the standards this year?** Same as last year. Through feedback from various sources, your commissioner is aware of the errors and a few bad calls from our officials up here.

Finally, for all the complainers of alleged "bad calls", "bad scoring" and those who say BBF do nothing for us, there's one message your duly appointed Scottish Commissioner has to give - **the federation can only help those who help themselves.**

Brian Edwards
Scottish Conference Commissioner

Hi

My name is Tom Cochran and I am looking to play baseball somewhere in England. I will graduate from high school this June and want to have the opportunity to travel and meet people whilst promoting and playing



the game I love. I have been playing for eight years now and plan on playing in college next year. If you desire a scouting report on my abilities, please contact genw@gate.net and request my report from ID number 128854. They will be happy to help you. I hope we can work something out so I can be given the opportunity to play somewhere in your league. Thank You.

Thomas E Cochran
20 Main St
MSC 7227
Exeter
NH 03833-2540
USA

Editor: This message was received via the Internet. If you would like us to reply on your behalf, please contact Head Office.

If you have access to the Internet, why not have a look at the Glasgow Comets pages. They now carry excerpts from their newsletter The Diamond and Beyond every month.

PUZZLE CORNER

SCRAMBLED SYLLABLES

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

Can you make 18 common baseball game words (each consisting of two syllables) from the list below? By way of example, one answer is AD-VANCE

AD	AP	AS	ER
IN	RE	BAT	BER
BOT	CON	DER	DUG
ING	INN	KER	LAY
OFF	OUT	PEN	PER
ROR	RUB	RUN	SIN
SLI	TER	TOM	BULL
LEAD	OVER	PEAL	SIDE
SIST	STOP	TROL	VANCE

Answers to last month's puzzle are as follows:

CODED CLUES

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| a. BAT | b. HIT |
| c. BALL | d. BASES |
| e. PLATE | f. STEAL |
| g. ASSIST | |

GOLDEN JUBILEE

LIVERPOOL TROJANS BASEBALL CLUB

Formed in 1946, the Trojans go into their 50th year this season.

This will make them one of the earliest, if not the earliest team formed in the UK.

Norman Wells was a founder member of their first team, and has remained with the club as a player, coach, manager and now President throughout the years.

Norman is now in his 76th year, which makes him one of the oldest actively engaged members of the baseball fraternity in the UK.

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HAVE BALL WILL TRAVEL.....

Got a spare week in your fixtures, fancy playing someone not in your division? The following are teams who have free weekends during the 1996 season. Please contact them and arrange a friendly.

SENIORS

21 April

Cartmel Valley Lions
London Wolverines
Brighton Buccaneers B
Bracknell Blazers
Guildford Mudcats

28 April

Manchester Cougars
Guildford Mavericks
Eastbourne Mariners

5 May

Liverpool Tigers
Arun Panthers

Stevenage Knights
Gillingham Dodgers
Bournemouth B2's
Bracknell Blazers II
Guildford Mudcats

12 May

Preston Bobcats
Brighton Buccaneers B
Waltham Abbey Arrows

19 May

Stretford A's
London Wolverines

26 May

West Midlands Razorbacks
Burgess Hill Red Hats

Croydon Pirates
Brentwood Stags
Gillingham Dodgers
Bracknell Blazers
Caterham A's
Guildford Mavericks
Fulham Flames
Cambridge Monarchs B
Bournemouth B2's

2 June

Birmingham Brewers
Brentwood Stags
Fulham Flames

9 June

Brentwood Stags
Hounslow Rangers
Bracknell Blazers II
Waltham Abbey Arrows
Fulham Flames

16 June

London Warriors
Hemel Red Sox
Brighton Buccaneers
Cartmel Valley Lions
Bracknell Blazers
Guildford Mudcats
Cambridge Monarchs B
Bracknell Blazers II

23 June

Manchester Cougars
Guildford Mavericks
Eastbourne Mariners

30 June

Liverpool Tigers
Gillingham Dodgers
Brighton Buccaneers II
Guildford mavericks
Waltham Abbey Arrows
Bracknell Blazers II
Eastbourne Mariners

7 July

Preston Bobcats
Guildford Mudcats
Cambridge Monarchs B
Fulham Flames

14 July

Brighton Buccaneers B
Waltham Abbey Arrows
Bournemouth B2's
Bracknell Blazers II

21 July

Birmingham Brewers

28 July

Stretford A's
London Wolverines
Bournemouth B2's

18 August

West Midlands Razorbacks
Caterham A's
Cambridge Monarchs B

25 August

Caterham A's
Waltham Abbey Arrows
Guildford Mudcats
Cambridge Monarchs B

There are also several new teams around the country and a few old ones taking a year out to recruit more players. If you fancy giving them a game and perhaps passing on a bit of your knowledge of the game, they are as follows:

Harrogate
Tamworth Strykers
East Coast Pirates
Bristol Black Sox
Clacton
Crewkerne Cutters
Droitwich Spa -Tans
Essex Eagles
Evesham
Gloster Meteors
Gloucester Gators

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Manchester M2 7HA
Tel: 0161 832 8530
Fax: 0161 832 9391

Retail or Mail Order

Lewisham
North Yate Royals
Plymouth Giants
Slough / Thames Valley
Swindon
Tonbridge Bobcats
Torbay Tigers
Waltham Forest Angels
Wrexham
Warwick Warriors
Belfast Blue Sox
Bushey Lions
Wessex Kings
Taunton

And of course there are the Old Timers who always like a good game and a new one to the scene the London Timberwolves - an all ladies team.

Contact numbers for all of the above can be obtained from BBF Head Office.

EUROPEAN BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

EUROPEAN BASEBALL IS COMING TO BRITAIN



See the best baseball to be played in Britain.

The European Championships are coming this August...
Phone the BBF on the number below to make sure you don't miss out.
Discounts and special offers available.

European Baseball Championships
3rd - 11th August 1996 Hull

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- Classic Jersey -
- 100% polyester
- V-neck seam
- Colour: as you wish
- Size: S - XXL
- Ref: 025031
- Price: £ 18



- Double-knit pants -
- 100% polyester
- double belt loop
- pocket behind
- former new length
- Size: S - XXL
- Ref: 025039
- Price: £ 18
- Belt: 20 pens.



UNIFORMS children

- V-Jersey -
- 50% polyester
- 50% cotton
- Colour: as you wish
- Size: S - XXL
- Ref: 025033
- Price: £ 11



- Double belt loop pants -
- Mate and training
- Colour: as you wish
- Size: S - XXL
- Ref: 025025
- Price: £ 11
- Belt: 20 pens



BALLS pro

- FL1 -
- The professional's matchball
- Full grain leather
- Double turned up seam
- Inside 100% pure white wool
- Double latex heart, 9in-5oz
- In accordance with international norms
- Ref: 018001
- Priceper dozen: £ 50



- QL1 -
- The «Official League» matchball
- Genuine leather
- Double semi turned up seam
- Inside: 50% pure white wool, 50% grey wool
- Double latex heart, 9in-5oz
- In accordance with international norms
- Ref: 018002
- Priceper dozen: £ 41
- If you buy 5 dozens, get 1 dozen free



BALLS training

- LL1 -
- The leather training ball
- Double seam
- Inside: cork, bark and rubber
- 9in-5oz
- In accordance with international norms
- Ref: 018003
- Priceper dozen: £ 29
- If you buy 5 dozens, get 1 dozen free



- IS1 -
- The vinyl ball
- Double seam
- Inside: cork, bark and rubber
- 9in-5oz
- In accordance with international norms
- Ref: 018005
- Priceper dozen: £ 15
- If you buy 5 dozens, get 1 dozen free



REF SIZE COLOUR QTY PRICE

- Shipment: 1-2 pcs=£4, 2-4 pcs=£5, 4-9 pcs=£7
- Cash per delivery £4

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JUNIOR SPORTS ACHIEVER

William Lintern, who attended the WCBF last year, was chosen as runner-up in the Tunbridge Wells Junior Sports Achievement Awards in the Under 12 category. He was awarded a £50 grant, a shield and certificate for his overall performance and commitment as a member of the Tonbridge Bobcats.

IMPROVE YOUR GAME

Have your players become complacent with their game, do they need that little bit extra coaching to make the difference this season? Do your coaches need a little more advice on how to make your team a winning team.

If so, then why not call on the services of Ralph Rago, our Head of Game Development. Ralph is willing to travel to your ground to assist in the development of your club.

Give him a call on 0113 266 9530 to discuss your requirements further.

WE'RE ALL GOING ON OUR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Please note BBF Head Office will be closed from

Thursday 4 April - Tuesday 9 April
and
Monday 17 June - Sunday 23 June

If you have any queries during these dates, please contact your relevant conference commissioner, or one of the other Board Directors.

Thanks for your cooperation.



BBF SUMMER CADET CAMP

18 - 23 AUGUST 1996

Preparations are underway for the above week long camp. It is to be held in Leeds at Moorland School and will be run by Ralph Rago, GB Manager.

The camp is open to junior baseball players between the ages of 13 and 15.

There will be some scholarship places available. If you have a junior on your team who you think is worthy of a place, then please write giving their details and information on why you think they deserve to be given the scholarship to BBF Head Office.

Further details of the camp and a booking form will appear in a future edition of Brit-Ball.



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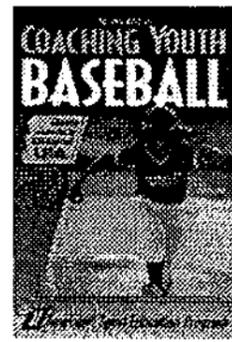


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Tom House Foreword by Randy Johnson
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In *Fit to Pitch* Tom House combines his on-field experience training with weight room workouts and years of human movement research to bring you proven, practical applications that will strengthen your pitching.



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American Sport Education Program
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ISBN 087322 965 7 • £10.95

This valuable resource contains 27 practice drills and 96 illustrations. *Coaching Youth Baseball* provides everything beginning baseball coaches need to make their coaching experiences safe, successful and enjoyable.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS

The organizers of the European Juveniles Baseball Championships announce the international artistic competition under the motto "LOOK AT BASEBALL". We kindly ask you to promote the competition amongst the children and youth in your entire country. Below you will find the regulations of the competition.

The Regulations of the Artistic Competition "LOOK AT BASEBALL"

The Purpose of the Competition

The goal of the competition is to produce a piece of work which depicts the promotion of baseball throughout Europe.

The Requirements Of the Competition

The competition is open to all girls and boys up to and including age 15.

The entries should be sent to the following address:

Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury
ul Zolkiewskiego
99-300 Kutno
Poland

Entries must be received by **31 May 1996**

The format of the entries is A4.

The maximum number of entries per person is 3.

The entries must be identified on the reverse with name, address, country and age.

The Conclusion of the Competition

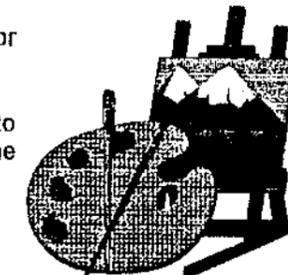
The competition judges will evaluate the works during the European Championships until 14 July 1996.

The panel of judges will be as follows:

- Representatives of the Kutno City Hall
- Representatives of the organisers
- Chiefs of the participating teams
- Representatives of the Kutno Youth House of Culture

The judges will award prizes for the best work

The judges reserve the right to make some changes during the competition



WHERE ARE ALL THOSE PLAYER REGISTRATIONS?

We thought 1996 was going to be the year when teams got their acts together and paid money on time. By the end of February every team who intended to compete in the leagues this year had paid their affiliation. Brilliant we thought. However, registering players is another story. We have

60 senior teams
and
40 junior teams

affiliated to the BBF this year. Today is 31 March - the day when player registrations are due. How many do we have?

18 senior teams
and
10 junior teams

Please remember that if your players are not registered by your first game then the opposing team have the right to claim the game (of course, that's providing theirs are registered).

Don't forget to register all those umpires, scorers and coaches as well. They're part of your club and deserve recognition and the information that we can send them if we know who they are.

And a little plea. Don't all leave your registrations until the week before you are due to play. We can only work so many hours a day, and to register everyone in the same week is nearing on mission impossible. Please allow as much time as possible.



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